

September 30, 1965

Dr. L. L. Cavalli-Sforza
18, Via Fatebenesorelle
Milan, Italy

Dear Luca:

The Department of Genetics here is putting up the name of Walter Bodmer for promotion to Associate Professor. The University administration has long followed the practice of requesting extramural evaluation of proposals of this kind, however obviously right or wrong they might appear to be internally. May I impose on you for such an evaluation, which would be of great help in the decisions concerning this promotion. The outlook that is customarily encouraged is that of a search, namely whether the candidate matches up to or exceeds the qualities of possible competitors, and in this light it would be particularly helpful if you were in a position to make some specific comparisons, always allowing for other consideration of level and availability that might possibly control the practicality of the decision. This is by no means a meaningless gesture, since we would in any case be most interested in any suggestions that you might have with respect to candidates of comparable or superior qualifications.

The breadth of Bodmer's interests and capacity for performance is a point of major importance in our own evaluation on him - the more so as we are, and would prefer to be able to continue to be, a relatively small department. It would be a matter of great interest to learn of your views as to any individuals of any station or locale whatever who should be considered in the same context.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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